

**Agency/Stakeholder Ecosystem Team (ASET)**  
**Draft Terms of Reference**  
**June 22, 2000**

Background

For the last several years, the CALFED Bay-Delta Program has convened a group of agency (state/federal) and stakeholder scientists (e.g., the Integration Panel) to provide input into the Ecosystem Restoration Program (ERP). The Integration Panel focused on defining annual priorities and assisting in the project selection process for early implementation of the ERP.

As the CALFED ERP moves towards long-term implementation, the program will require input and guidance from agency and stakeholder scientists as well as independent scientific review. CALFED has established the Interim Science Board (ISB) to provide independent review. In order to secure agency and stakeholder science input during ERP implementation, CALFED established the Agency/Stakeholder Ecosystem Team (ASET). The ISB and ASET will work with CALFED staff and the broader agency/stakeholder community (e.g., CALFED Policy Group, Ecosystem Roundtable) to help ensure that ERP implementation:

- is based on sound science;
- employs an adaptive management strategy; and,
- is consistent with the recommendations of the ERP Focus Group, including the "Single Blueprint" concept (e.g., integration of the ERP among other CALFED programs (e.g., MSCS) as well as other relevant state and federal programs, such as the Central Valley Project Improvement Act and US Army Corps/Reclamation Board Comprehensive Flood Study).

ASET will consist of a small group of agency and stakeholder scientists (generally at the chief scientist level with their organizations) familiar with the Bay/Delta and Central Valley ecosystems and state/federal regulatory authorities. Similar to the Interim Science Board, CALFED ERP staff anticipates that ASET will be engaged through the Record of Decision and certification of final environmental documentation, with the likelihood of extension until the final governance structure is defined and in place.

Mission Statement

ASET will assist CALFED with implementation of the ERP by providing scientific input into the development of long-term and short-term strategies to meet the programs goals and objectives.

Specifically, ASET will work with CALFED staff to:

- develop annual ERP work plans (program priorities/expenditures);
- develop annual ERP implementation plans (e.g., establish annual priorities and select projects for the ERP);
- draft work tasks (e.g., questions) for the Interim Science Board;
- ensure ERP implementation is consistent among other CALFED program elements, including the MSCS;
- integrate ERP implementation among other existing, relevant state and federal programs (e.g., CVPIA);
- identify and address "high priority" issues which may delay program implementation (e.g., environmental/regulatory permits);
- help facilitate implementation of the adaptive management process;

- facilitate communication among CALFED program elements, CALFED Policy Group, and Ecosystem Roundtable; and,
- ensure feedback from previous ERP actions and monitoring are incorporated into the long-term planning (ERP work plans) and annual priority setting (ERP implementation plans).

### Operating Procedures

1. The ASET's work products are to reflect its scientific and management judgement. To the extent that CALFED staff uses or alters these work products there will be clear identification of the source and changes to ASET's reports and recommendations.
2. CALFED shall designate an ERP point of contact for ASET – Rebecca Fawver.
3. ASET will elect or otherwise select a chair or chairs to represent ASET in other forums, and to develop meeting agendas with CALFED staff and lead ASET meetings – Fred Nichols, Pete Rhoads, and Tim Ramirez
4. ISB representatives/chairs will attend ASET meetings, and ASET representatives/chairs will attend ISB meetings.

### Initial Work Program

- Assist CALFED staff and ISB with preparation of the 2001 Proposal Solicitation Package, which includes the 2001 Implementation Plan (in the context of the 12 areas of uncertainty and the Strategic Plan).
- Work with CALFED staff and the ISB to establish a process to review and select projects submitted in response to the 2001 PSP/FY01 Implementation Plan that meet CALFED ERP and CVPIA goals and objectives.
- Participate in selection of projects submitted in response to the 2001 PSP/FY01 Implementation Plan.
- Provide input on how to maximize the information gained from the FY00 Planning, Monitoring, and Science funding (\$7.4 million). Does the current allocation of these funds meet the needs of the FY00 ERP Work Plan?
- In preparation for developing the FY02 ERP Work Plan and Implementation Plan, review the previous and ongoing efforts. This includes articulating how the white papers, tributary assessments, reconnaissance-level analyses, prefeasibility studies, and indicators work together to achieve the ERP goals and objectives (i.e., how do these pieces fit together now, and where to we go from here).
- Review ERP Focus Group recommendations, particularly those from Team 1 (program integration) and Team 2 (priority setting and adaptive management), and incorporate into development of ERP Work Plans and Implementation Plans.
- Work with CALFED staff to describe the structure and function of the CALFED Science Program, including the ERP.